

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-5 have been amended.

Priority Under 35 U.S.C. 119

Applicant notes the Examiner's acknowledgment of the Claim for Priority under 35 U.S.C. 119, and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document.

Drawings

The drawings have been objected to, as the Examiner has required that Figs. 3(a) – 3(c) be denoted as "PRIOR ART". Accordingly, enclosed is one (1) red-inked drawing Annotated Sheet, wherein Figs. 3(a) – 3(c) have been denoted as "PRIOR ART". Also enclosed is one (1) drawing Replacement Sheet, incorporating the above noted correction. **The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge receipt and acceptance of the drawing Replacement Sheet.**

Claim Objections

Claims 1-5 have been objected to in view of the informalities as listed on page 2 of the current Office Action. The claims have been corrected in view of the suggestions made by the Examiner. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to withdraw the objection to the claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes the Examiner's acknowledgment that claims 1-5 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the claim objections. Since the claims have been corrected in view of the objections raised, the Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge that claims 1-5 are now allowed.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the above noted amendments have been made merely to correct minor informalities, rather than to substantively change claim scope. This should be especially clear in view of the Examiner's acknowledgement of allowable subject matter. Accordingly, the above noted amendments should not be construed as narrowing scope within the meaning of *Festo*.

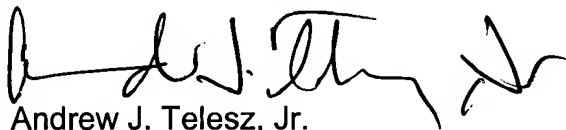
The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the corresponding objections, and to pass the claims of the present application to issue, for at least the above reasons.

In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, please contact Andrew J. Telesz, Jr. (Reg. No. 33,581) at (571) 283-0720 in the Washington, D.C. area, to discuss these matters.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment for any additional fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0238.

Respectfully submitted,

VOLENTINE FRANCOS & WHITT, P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew J. Telesz, Jr.', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Andrew J. Telesz, Jr.
Registration No. 33,581

One Freedom Square
11951 Freedom Drive, Suite 1260
Reston, Virginia 20190
Telephone No.: (571) 283-0270
Facsimile No.: (571) 283-0740

Enclosures: One (1) drawing Annotated Sheet
One (1) drawing Replacement Sheet

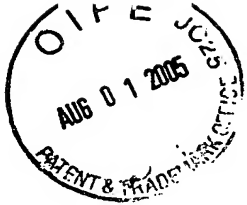


Fig.3(a)
PRIOR ART

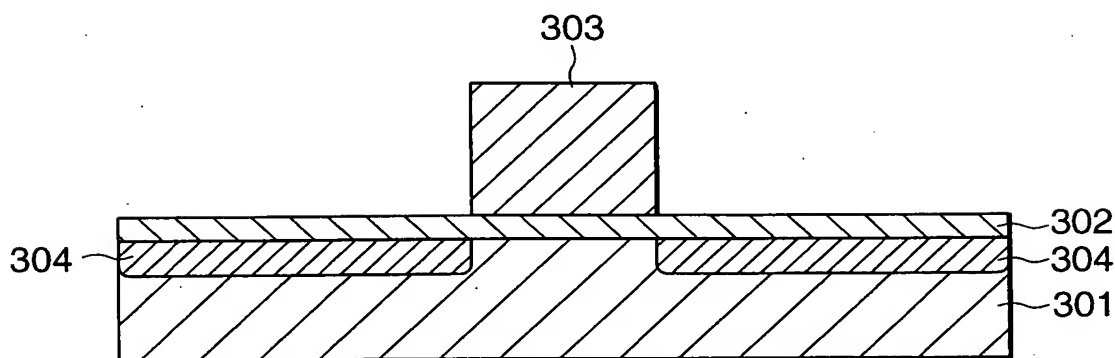


Fig.3(b)
PRIOR ART

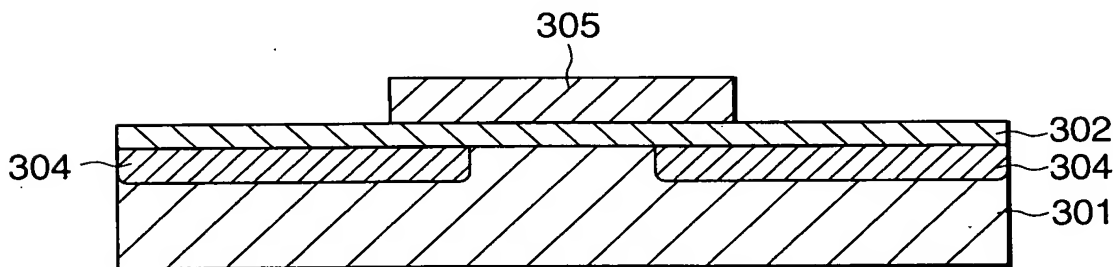


Fig.3(c)
PRIOR ART

